

A Full and Faithful

a. 5000.

ACCOUNT

OF THE

INTRIGUE

BETWEEN

Mr *Noble* and Mrs *Sayer*.

THEIR

Ill Usage of Mr. *SAYER*, and his Family, with some further Events Preceding and Subsequent to *Noble's* Conviction.

HIS

Behaviour in the *Marshalsea* and at *Kingston*: His Confession at large to a Minister of the Gospel: The Circumstances attending the Writing his Paper: His Letter to Dr. *Bray* about a Reprieve, and Dr. *Bray's* to him. With other Original Papers and Letters.

Carefully Collected and Revis'd by Persons well Acquainted with the Prosecution.

L O N D O N:

Printed, and Sold by *A. Baldwin* at the *Oxford Arms* in *Warwick-Lane*, 1713. (Price One Shilling.)



THE PREFACE.

I Enter'd into this Case at first out of Curiosity, but I am since in engag'd in it out of Gratitude. The Trouble I gave the Persons, from whom I had my first Information, which they were pleas'd to Excuse, oblig'd me to continue my Narrative, to justify the Prosecution. Is it not hard that there shou'd be any Occasion in a Protestant Country, to speak in Justification of those who have prosecuted a Murderer and an Adulterer, for the Blood of an Honest and Injur'd Gentleman? If a Poor Wretch Steals a Horse, you Hang him, with no more Reproach than you wou'd a Dog; Here's a Man who Stole the Estate, the Wife,

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the Life of his Benefactor; and yet when Justice overtook him, you say, 'Tis Pity. The Man Expiring on the Floor at Twyford's, is no more thought of; And you have no Compassion, but for Him under the Gibbet. Had Mr. Sayer's Bloody Breast been Expos'd, when Noble's Night Cap was put on, I question whether all this Pity wou'd not have been turn'd to Rage and whether your Resentment wou'd not have prevented Justice. Mrs. Sayer was so sensible of this, that when Noble was committed to the Marshalsea, she cries out, He will be Mob'd, He'll be murder'd by the Mob this Night. But all of a sudden the Tables are turn'd, and he is become their Favourite. I cannot see for what, unless for making them an Holy Day. I have nothing here to do with Mr. Noble's Repentance, I hope it was sincere, and if so, he has now the Reward. All I have to object against are the mighty hardships which are pretended he lay under for want of Time. I might say after him, He gave him none. One Stab sent the Ruffled Soul of the Deceas'd into Eternity. Noble had many Days and Nights to make his Peace with Heaven. And how he employ'd them all, till he despair'd of Life, will be seen in the following Pages, wherein is something said of his Behaviour in the Marshalsea, and his Contempt of the Ghostly Advice of the Preacher there; to whose Letter I refer, and must not here omit what I have since learn'd of the Success of that Letter. 'He was thereby invincibly prejudic'd against the Writer of it, if we may Credit a Divine, who afterwards visited him in the Prison. He told another Clergy-Man that the Minister who wrote to him had sent him an Insolent Letter, wherein he made himself Judge and Jury, and Condemn'd him without hearing him. He never came to Chappel, nor let that Minister hear from him, till the Saturday before the Assizes, above Five Weeks after his Commitment. He then sent the Preacher of the Marshalsea,



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Thalsea, would he should be glad to see him any Morning. But when that Minister went to him the Monday about Nine a Clock, He bid his Clerk tell him, He was busy, but should be glad to see him any other Morning. Whoever reads over the above-mention'd Pathetick Letter, and considers the Circumstances of the Prisoner's Crime: will rather Lament that he had so misemploy'd the Time he had, than that he had no more, which not to judge too uncharitably, wou'd doubtless have been spent as well in Efforts to prolong his Life, as in Preparations to End it.

Does not every one know how Frantick Despair is, how Weak ill Men are against Temptations of Money; had the Prisoner during that so much wish'd for Reprieve, Bribe'd one Keeper, Kill'd another, and made his Escape, how wou'd you have exclaim'd against the Indulgence that is now contended for? And who was so bold that wou'd have taken on him the Guilt of any Crime which might have been the Consequence of it? Let the Divine to whom that Question was put say, Why he did not Answer it, and not be Silent at so groundless and cruel a Clamour. Groundless, since 'tis certain, the best Judgment in the Kingdom thought the Time he wou'd have too Long, and Cruel, because every Complaint of that kind makes Mr. Sayer's Wound bleed a fresh.

I do not believe there's a like Instance of Compassion for so hardned a Criminal, I mean till the very last Scene of his Life. I will not judge of his Contrition, and am speaking of him only before the Ministers had any Signs of his being sensible of his Condition. Both Sexes wou'd have had all the Punishment have fallen on those whom in his Speech he calls the Partners in his Sins. I must own when I reflect on the Miserable Life Mr. Sayer led with them, on the Loss of his Liberty, his Estate and his Life, I give them as much up to Justice as the Law

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Law can. But I also demand it on the Wicked Instrument they made use of, and since, as a Divine who was at Kingston with Mr. Noble, told me, that Never did Providence more remarkably appear than in his Conviction, notwithstanding all the Artifices us'd to get off, We ought to look upon all the Events in this Affair, as the Righteous Hand of God, and to praise his Name for exerting it in so visible a manner against such Crying Sins as Adultery and Murder.

Many of those Artifices are hinted in this Relation, and that of the Coroner's Inquest was not the least; for 'tis certain there was a Doubt at one time, whether their Verdict wou'd be for or against him. Those of 'em who dip'd deeper into the inside of the Napkins than the others of them did, can tell best the Reason. The Story will be found with others of the like Nature in the following Narration. Mr. Noble's unconcern before his Condemnation may in a great Measure be attributed to his being buoy'd up by his Council; One of 'em telling him He would be in his Case for Six-pence, and when he was going to Kingston, sending for a Pair of Shoes, he said send for two, you'll Live to wear 'em out I'll warrant ye. But as he was a Man of good Understanding, it is strange he shou'd be so infatuated by Flatterers as to defer the Work of Repentance in a Case of Blood, till Body and Mind sunk under a Load of Irons after his Condemnation.

A Man need not be a very good Critick to observe that the Thread of this Relation is often broken, that the Order of Time is often interrupted, that the Conclusion is not so regular as Men of Method wou'd have it, which the Writer was very well appriz'd of, but cou'd not help doing as he did. His Memoirs coming from Five or Six Persons, and not at a time, but by Bits and Scraps

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as those Persons cou'd refresh their Memories. However, exactness is not so absolutely necessary in such Casual Accounts as in a regular History, and the Truth of the Facts is what sets a Vallue upon them. That the Facts are true I do not doubt, for tho' I, being a Stranger to the Parties concern'd, had nothing to do but to put them into Form; yet I took Care not to take any from Persons whose Veracity was in the least questionable, and who had not Opportunities fully to acquaint themselves with them.

The Hurry such Relations are generally publish'd in to satisfy the Curious, who are always in haste, has occasion'd a few Errors of the Press in this, which the Reader will easily Correct as he runs it over; and these and many other Errors which may have crept into it in that Hurry shall be carefully Corrected, if this Case meets with the Encouragement the first did, and calls for another Impression, as we have all the reason imaginable to hope it will. The Facts being more Numerous, more Surprising, and the Catastrophe of the Tragedy answering the End of all just Tragedies both in Pleasure and Instruction.



A Full and Faithful

ACCOUNT

OF THE

CASE

OF

Mr Noble and Mrs Sayer.

IN the former Part of this Narrative, relating to Mr Noble and Mrs Sayer, I promis'd to give a further Account of that Case and the Behaviour of the Prisoner Noble, from the Time of his Condemnation to that of his Death. That I might do it effectually I made Acquaintance
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new of thought, with the Persons who attended him in Prison, and who had most of his Conversation.

I also did my utmost to inform my self from Mr Sayer's Friends of the Truth of several Facts that have come to my Knowledge since the Publication of the second Edition of the Case; and the Authority I speak from is such with respect to the Veracity of the Events, that I defy the most Inquisitive Malice to diminish it.

Mrs Sayer after she was brought in *not Guilty*, was so over-joy'd, that she could not help shewing it in Court in such a manner, as made them give her a Check for the little Concern she had for the unhappy Man she had brought into those Circumstances. There was a Talk that she was marry'd to *Noble* in the *Marshalsea*, but it was not true, any more than is the Talk, that she hearken'd to the Addresses of one of her Counsel, and engag'd to marry him before *Noble* was executed. *Noble* did not deny that he had had Criminal Commerce with her, but clear'd the other Women who lay under Suspicion. He also said, *The Ladies were bound in Honour to do what they could to save him*, which they indeed did, if Mrs Sayer, as was given out, propos'd to part with her Jointure for that purpose. Through the whole Course of the Prosecution there was nothing wanting the Women could do to assist to bring him off. It must be with their Money that he carry'd on his Business, and it was not a little did it. He feed no less than twenty Lawyers, and had thirty Solicitors acting for him at once; insomuch that 'tis thought, the Costs of the Defence stood in above 2000 l. The Tryal was manag'd with so much Art, that had *Hannons*' Plot taken effect, *Noble* would certainly have far'd as well, as the Women. They not only tamper'd with *Reeves*, but the Coroner's Inquest were not unsuspected, and they Treat *Noble* and the Ladies gave some of them in the *Marshalsea*, was with a View of their being kinder to them than they prov'd to be. The Women were

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of an Intriguing Spirit, and no Body intrigues so well as when 'tis for Life.

Since the Publishing of the first Account, I have inform'd my self of the following Particulars relating to Mr. Noble's Agent's Male Practices, to bring him off. When the Coroners Inquest was sitting on the Body of the Deceas'd, one of them who shall be Nameless, came to the Door, and said *He was come there on the behalf of the Prisoner Mrs. Sayer, desiring Admittance to the Coroner and Jury, to see that a True and Just Prosecution shou'd be follow'd by Mrs. Sayer, the Deceas'd's Widow, against the Prisoner Noble, or to that effect.* In Answer to which, he was assur'd, *Such Practice was not us'd in England, let it be how it wou'd anywhere else, or to that purpose.* Such a Proceeding as this wou'd be the more extraordinary, if any of the Jury were engag'd, or otherwise serv'd on it by the Recommendation, or Procurement, or some other means of the same Person. I have heard something with relation to one of these Jury-Men, as Henry Turner particularly, who, as is said, has declar'd he had not been on the Jury, but for such a One, whom he was not willing to disoblige. The Treat we mention'd in the former Part, has been better explain'd since: That there was a good Dinner got in the Marshalsea, at the Prisoner's Charge, Sunday or Monday, during the Adjournment: That 1000 l. was offer'd 'em to save Noble's Life: That they were told, *One, or more Life or Lives, lay in their Hands; that the Deceas'd was gone, there was no recalling him, and it was not the Dead they must Live by, but by the Living.* As an Earnest of these Terms, the Napkins on every Plate were not without Lining, no less than Five Guineas in each: But the Jury were too Honest to take them.

'Tis certain, Noble was flatter'd by some of his Council, into an Assurance, that his Crime should be attended but with the Punishment of *Se. Defendende*; it could hardly reach to *Chance Medley*, and supposing

the worst that could happen, Manslaughter was the most
 could be made of it. I would very feign let the World
 into several Secrets, in the management of this Af-
 fair, which was carry'd on with great Dexterity; but
 I am always unwilling to expose Men's Characters, ho-
 ping they may recover such Slips, and then they won'd
 be asham'd to see their Errors; else I wou'd acquaint
 the Reader who it was that apply'd to S^r B^r Hq^y
 to serve on the Grand Jury, which he refus'd like a
 Man of Honour, who scorn'd such Service at the Sol-
 licitation of a Friend of Noble. As an Instance of
 the vast Expence this Tryal must cost the Prisoner,
 400 *l*, was lodg'd in one of the Agents Hands; and
 I am told, that Noble, a few Hours before his Exe-
 cution, draw a Bill on him, payable Two or Three
 Days after his Death.

The Person that put Noble on the unlucky Affair
 of Hannon, may be justly charg'd with the ill Con-
 sequences of it to him. Hannon was a Stranger to
 Noble, and probably had never thought of his Sub-
 ornation any more than of the Man had it not been
 put into his Head. Since Kingston Assizes, Two Men
 offer'd themselves Bail before Mr. Lade for Hannon's
 forth-coming; upon which Daniel Reeves, whom
 Hannon wou'd have snuborn'd, enquiring into the
 Character of one of them, and bringing the Justice
 of Peace word of his Circumstances, according to the
 Information he had receiv'd; One of the Men's
 Wives, Arrests Reeves in an Action of 10 *l*. upon
 his coming back from the Justice, who being in-
 form'd of it, sends for the Woman, correcting her
 for what she had done. She truly was very Saucy,
 and gave ill Langrage, for which she was committed
 to the Marshalsea to keep her Client Hannon Com-
 pany. There are others besides Hannon, who will
 be Prosecuted; one particularly, has enter'd into
 Recognizance of 200 *l*. for his Appearance at the
 Queen's Bench-Bar the first Day of the next Term, to
 answer an Information against him.

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Among other Petty Contrivances of Noble's Agents, this was one. The Prosecutor's Witnesses at *Kingston* were all in a House together, taken for that purpose, and none to be admitted into that House but themselves; but as soon as ever the Witnesses came, the Door being open'd for them, a Fellow disguis'd like a Fidler crept in among them, and fell a playing till being suspected to be, what he was, a Spye, he had like to have came off scurvily, had not his Heels been as good as his Head. This Rogue in a Silver button'd Coat got just under the Jury in the way of the Witnesses, whom every now and then he rail'd at. But being found out there too, he was turn'd out of the Court by Head and Shoulders. When *Farrington* the Bailiff came from giving his Evidence, a Man ran his Cane against his Breast, and push'd him backwards saying, *D——ye Villain*; which he wou'd have paid for severely, had he had not ask'd his Pardon, for Capt. *Alkern*, another of the Queen's Evidence, a Man of Courage, seeing it, came up to him and threatened to have him before the Bench immediately. This abated the Man's Heat, and he consented to humble himself to the Person he had offended.

A Gentleman visiting the Prisoners in the *Marshalsea* they were very Inquisitive to know what was become of one *Holmes* a Corn-Chandler in *Drury-Lane*, who had fail'd; and the Gentlemen asking the Reason, they said, *He cou'd Swear Mr. Sayer had given 50l. to save a Woman from being Carted*. The Gentleman met this *Holmes* as he went Home, and told him the Prisoners wanted to speak with him. Accordingly *Holmes* went, but *Hannon's* Plot being discover'd, this Man was not heard of at the Tryal.

I cannot forbear mentioning on this Occasion an Artifice of Madam's to blind the Family in her Amours. She had a Correspondence with a Lady of the Court till her Reputation became a Scandal to all that convers'd with her, and under Pretence of visiting that Lady, she would order her Coach to drive to

to *St. James's House*, get out of it into the *Passage*, turning to the *French Chappel*, take a Chair there, be gone for 4 or 5 Hours, and not mind her Servants or her Horses that she left starving in the Court so long; her Sister staying sometimes, and all believing she was in the Lady's Lodgings. At other times her Coach was left and the Park had her Company till Twelve or One a Clock in the Morning, she always taking Care not to be alone. *Oxenden Chappel* has also been very serviceable to her Intrigues, and when she has been thought to be at her Devotion there, a Gentleman has been ready to receive her in *Hide-Park*: Whose distinguish'd Steed it was she us'd to ride, and whose Strawberry Gelding, is not material at this time farther than to shew, that 'tis Pity the poor Wretch, whose Death she was so much the Occasion of, had not been more sensible of her Inconstancy to him as well as her Husband, which one would think was enough to make him rather detest than doat upon her. *Noble* was willing to have it thought by *Sayer's* Servants that he Courted her Sister, but 'twas too plain he had no need of a Wife in that Family. The Usage of Mr *Sayer* was the more Cruel, because with all her Faults the good Natur'd Man would have forgiven and entertain'd her, if she would have return'd to him. It was but 2 or 3 days before he was kill'd, that a Gentleman asking him what he would do with her if he could find her out, he reply'd, *Do with her? Why he would hug her all Night, and play at Cards with her all Day.*

He wrote her several kind Letters inviting her to return, offering to excuse her *Misconduct*. So soft a Name did he give her Adultery, and assuring her in one of 'em, that his kindness to her should follow her to her Grave. She, 'tis true, endeavour'd to fix a contrary Character on him, and the Sunday Night before she went away, after she had receiv'd the Sacrament, *Noble* and the Women were together in his Parlour, himself being a-
 Bed

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Bed and lame of the *Count*; on a sudden there
was a great Out-cry, the Women scream'd and
one of them ran to a Neighbour's House, and told
her Mr Sayer was beating his Wife. Thus the Hus-
band was rail'd at for the Faults of the Wife, who
acted that Farce only to prepare the way for her E-
lopement. I am very unwilling to load the Memory
of the Dead farther than the Case requires; but we
must consider the Murder'd as well as the Murderer,
and our Compassion for *Noble* must not be injurious to
Justice. Mr Sayer was an honest as well as a quiet
Man, and had had Provocations which would have
excus'd almost every thing. *Noble's* Life was wicked
in all the Parts of it, and even at his Tryal the
Witness he call'd to his Reputation, while he was
Clerk to an Attorney at the *Devizes*, was so free as
to declare the Attorney complain'd of his Lewdness
with his Maid Seryants, when he was scarce arriv'd
to Manhood. There is also living a Gentleman who
has a Pension from the Government of 200*l.* a Year,
which he impower'd *Noble* to receive for him, and
when he had put it into his Hands, he could not get
it out of them. In his Profession his Conscience was
too extensive: He brought one of his Clients in a Bill
of 70*l.* for Costs of a Suit in two Terms, which
being tax'd, was reduc'd to 10*l.* and out of that
4*l.* went for the Charges.

Some time before his Father dy'd, which happen'd
to be on that Day four Years on which his Son was
executed, a Gentleman then at *Bath*, ask'd his Father
concerning him, his Life and Fortune, and the good
Man with Tears in his Eyes, reply'd, I have
straighten'd my self for him till I have strain'd my
self, and he is now come to Town with an Equipage so
splendid that he's ashamed of me, like an ungrateful Wretch
as he is.

I observe these Things to intimate that a Man
is generally all of a Piece, and that especially if
he allows himself in one Enormous Vice, ano-
ther

ther will soon follow it, and the whole Train come after.

The Writings of Mr Sayer's Estate, which will be mention'd again in the Course of this Narrative, were in Mrs Sayer's Custody, and she carry'd them with her into the *Mint*, whence a Servant hir'd by one of *Noble's* Council, convey'd them two or three Hours after the Murder, and she had not produc'd them when *Noble* was Executed. There's something remarkable in that Murder, though it was an Accident, and that is, the Day on which it was committed, for on that very Day must *Noble* have surrender'd himself upon the 500 l. Action brought against him by Mr Sayer for his Adultery with his Wife, or his Bayl would have been taken up, which is not said to insinuate that *Noble* forethought of killing Mr Sayer, since 'tis certain he was impatient at *Trysford's* to be gone about some Business, and press'd to have Dinner hastned. Though he has acquitted the other Women of any Guilty Commerce, yet when he said he never saw any thing Immodest or Indecent in their Company, I fear he did not consider how many more had been Witnesses of it besides himself.

Before the Tryal was over, the Friends to the Prisoners reported every where about Town, that *Noble* had prepar'd such a Defence as would certainly clear him. The Wagers ran *Even* when the Odds were so much against him. They were all so flush'd with Hopes, that they liv'd merrily in Prison, and the Glass went chearfully about. *Noble* was generally with the Ladies from seven in the Morning till twelve at Night; Love and a Bottle at first made the Goal less irksome. Money, and not a little, kept off the Irons, and the Ladies and the Lover, who were well read in Romances, must surely fancy themselves in an Enchanted Castle, from which the *Knights of the Post* were soon to deliver them. Mrs Sayer complain'd heavily that the Prosecutors would not let her have

her

her Cloaths, and she could not keep her self clean, as her Proctor said, for want of them, which must needs be a Hardship when her Gallant was confin'd with her. The truth of which is, *Terry* the Deceas'd's Man carry'd them to her, and would have deliver'd them, if she would have given him a Receipt. A Voucher he might well require, knowing how Vexatious *Noble* had been to his Master and others: The Joynture Mr *Sayer*'s Marriage Articles will give his Widow, is 3 or 400 *l.* a Year, but I am inform'd he stands lyable to a Suit for the Money and Goods he imbezled of his when she Elop'd. What she did before for *Noble*'s sake, was of no small Value: The Entertainments at his Chambers, the emptying of her own Cellars to fill his, the Presents she made him at Mr *Sayer*'s Expence are all forgot in the grand Rasack of his House, when she left it to return no more; as were also the Goods he took up of Mr *Sayer*'s Tradesmen, which were charg'd to his Accompt and he paid for 'em. His Tallow-chandler particularly demanding Money for 4 dozen of Candles which had been sent in to *Noble*: Mr *Sayer* leaving those Things too much to his Wife's management, who had the Conscience to put the fine Lace he sent her out of *Holland* on *Noble*'s Shirts. I cannot observe Chronology in this Narrative, for that the Facts did not come regularly to my Cognizance, and I was resolv'd to have them all at the best Hand. The unhappy Conduct of the Person who was to be his Wife, was what might have been expected from the Symptoms of Vice that appear'd at the Boarding School and before Consummation. I have not Forehead enough to tell a whole Story of this kind, when she was but ten Years old, though I had it from one of her Schoolfellows. The liberty she took in Talking, and the lively description she gave of certain Passages, between an old Man and his young Wife, to whom she was innocently put to Bed, was an early Proof that she would be an apt Schollar in the School of Love: And a very near

Relation of Mr Sayer, speaking to her about a Fort-
 night before she was marry'd, and mentioning Prayers
 in the Family, she in a violent Passion said, *I should*
hate to have a Husband of mine read Prayers in a Family
it is so mean a Thing. How could one expect better
 Things from her, What Examples had she to set her
 a Pattern of Piety and Virtue!

I could appeal to a Major General now living, who
 when a Captain, as he was on his march to Plymouth
 found one of the Ladies of this History in a worse Place
 than a Brandy Shop; and I have also seen a Letter
 from the Mother of Mrs Sayer to her Son in Law
 with Words in it to this Effect, if not the very same
I shall not believe the scandalous Things you report of my
Daughter, but supposing they were true, my Love to her
should not at all be abated. What else could be ex-
 pected from a Parent that could stand by while her
 Child was bleeding in the Arm, and again in the
 Foot, while she was taking the strongest Vomits that
 could be given for the intended Purpose, to get rid
 of an unlawful Conception. At what Apothecary's
 House that Operation was effected, 'tis sufficient that
 I know, since 'tis probable the Operator would suffer
 if all the World knew it.

The Parson of Biddleſden having been mention'd in
 the former Part, as one of the Lady's Gallants, it will
 not be impertinent to report what was done in
 the Family there. There was one Night 100 l. tak-
 ken out of a Desk, and a huge Gleaver hung from the
 top to the bottom of the Stairs to allarm the House
 with the fright of Robbers; the Servants got up, and
 the Curate among the rest in his Shirt; a Pistol was
 shot off, and the Village rais'd: But my Lady Dr
 told Mrs Sayer at a Visit, *She certainly knew who had*
 100 l. and no Body doubted but it was the Parson
 though no Body suppos'd he took it. He liv'd in
 Mr Sayer's House, and had the Happiness to sit
 whole Nights with the Mistress of it. All the Village
 knew who it was that us'd to have his Lady in one

Arbourney

one Harbour, and who it was that was at the same time
 as happy in the other. 'Twas the common Talk at *Bida-*
lesden, and if the Reader comes there in his Travels;
 he may have enough of it, if he has not enough al-
 ready. *May Fair* all the World knows was a Place of
 intrigue, and it would have been a Wonder if *Ma-*
am had not found the Way thither. I know some
 people that reckon'd for her from that very Time,
 but Reckonings are not always right, no more was
 theirs. When poor Mr *Sayer* being forbidden his
 Wife's Bed, reveng'd himself in another Woman's;
 and got an agly Disease: His Wife, who had refus-
 ed to admit him to hers soon after the Birth
 of the first Child, declaring, *She would never have a*
other by him, would run to his Embraces whether he
 would or not, and 'twas suspected she had Reasons for
 quite contrary to Love or Duty.
 His Son has the Happiness to bear so lively a Re-
 semblance of his Father Mr *Sayer*, that one would
 think Providence so particularly distinguish'd him to
 prevent all manner of Suspicion in a Woman that was
 much suspected.
 Neither she, nor the Ladies her Companions, gave
 themselves any Trouble to prevent Mr *Sayer's* Jeal-
 ousy, they would carry on a Conversation on their
 fingers all Dinner Time, as well to teaze him as
 please themselves with their Intrigues and De-
 ces. He would often seem uneasy, and ask what
 they meant by it; but they did not care for that,
 and the good Man was forc'd to bear it. Though
 she had not vow'd Constancy to *Noble*, she was cer-
 ainly fond of him: There was Fondness even in her
 rudeness to him, and notwithstanding she was so
 much transported at her own Deliverance, that she at
 times forgot him, 'tis not to be doubted she had a
 passion for him as warm as it was Criminal. When
 the Ladies were to visit her some time since, she
 said to her Sister, *I had rather have my dear Dick's*
company, than his and to call him in her fond *Fits*
 they doubtless were all of 'em very Sollicitous to
 save

have him before and after his Tryal, or he who was not himself rich, could not have thrown away so many hundred, if not thousand Pounds in his Defence. *Farrington* the Barliff was offer'd 200 *l.* not to appear at the Tryal, and a Bond of 1000 *l.* to save him Harmless. The like Offers were made to several others.

One of the Evidences in the former part has given this further Information. *Mrs. Sayer* went at one Lodging by the Name of *Mervyn*, at another by that of *Morly*, and at another by that of *Jordan*. She was of a very Amorous Complexion, and never better pleased, as her Husband said often, than when she was talking what wou'd put other Ladies to the Blush; such a habit she got of it, that she cou'd not refrain in civil Company, which occasion'd all her sober Acquaintance to leave off Visiting her. At length she had a Name for that and Intriguing so notorious, that when ever she went to Church the Ladies that were in the Pew, she wou'd have sat in, left it. The Violence of her Passion discover'd itself by her Eyes and Gestures, and it is said by some whose Profession gives them Grounds to know that she did not escape the ill Effects of it, which *Noble* would have had remov'd at any Rate. She would look up in his Face, call him *my Dear*, and ask a hundred times a Day, *Well, how'd'ya do?* The wanton Leer she us'd to give to a Gentleman's Coachman that was a likely Fellow, made him tell the Servant in the House, that he was sure if he had Courage enough to attempt it, he might have her as well as New man, the Name *Noble* went by. She told a Gentleman, She us'd to make herself Aprons of her Brother's (as she us'd to call *Noble*) Shirts. He had his Picture drawn by her Request very fine in Miniature, and set in Gold, by one *Veracy*, which shou'd seem'd to adore. *Noble* would frequently fetch very deep Sighs in her Company, at which she was not a little concern'd, and ask'd him what he sigh'd for, when alas! poor Man, at that time, tho' it

7 or 8 Months ago, it was believ'd by those who
 observ'd him, that his Conscience was stung at
 something: So well at that time did the love No-
 ble, that she would frequently kiss his Marc Fenny,
 for the sake of her Rider; and whenever he us'd
 to come to her when she was out of Town, to be
 sure she would dress and clean herself to Perfection,
 and prepare him all the nourishing Refresh-
 ments that could be thought of. She frequently,
 so long since, us'd to wish when she was at Work
 with the Maid, that one Person in the World was dead,
 and would tell at the same time several Circum-
 stances which happen'd to a certain marry'd Couple,
 which when Mr S—— was told of 'em, he said, they
 were what were transacted between him and his Wife,
 and that the Person she wish'd dead must be him. Fiction
 was her and Noble's refuge, by which they were
 continually vilifying the Innocent. For above three
 Months before she was brought to Bed of the last
 Child by Noble, she was not out of the Doors of
 her Lodging, nor did any Woman kind excepting
 the Midwife, Nurse, and Gentlewoman of the House
 where she lodg'd, come to her, therefore how any
 Lady could say in Court upon the Tryal, that she
 saw her a Month before she was brought to Bed,
 and look'd not at all big as a Woman with Child,
 when she was indeed bigger than ordinarily Women
 with Child are, is very strange.
 I am credibly inform'd, that Noble was at a cer-
 tain Gentleman's House not a Fortnight before he
 kill'd Mr Sayer, who telling him, that to his know-
 ledge he was forsworn in his Answer to Mr Sayer's
 Bill in Chancery, Noble being touch'd in his Con-
 science, abus'd the Gentleman in his own House,
 challeng'd him to go out to fight him, and said,
 Mr Sayer was a Villain, &c. and that he did not de-
 serve to live, or Words to that effect. We are al-
 so inform'd, that if a certain Evidence or two wou'd
 return within the Year of the Appeal, and declare
 what they were enjoin'd to conceal for a valuable

Consideration, it would upon the Prosecution of the rest go very hard with them too.

When *Noble* and Mrs. S — —, lodg'd at Mr. *Hall's* in *New Earl-street*, Mr. *Hall* one Night dog'd the Chair-men that carry'd *Noble* home, and so came to know who, and what he was, and Mrs. S — — being very big at his House, Mrs. *Hall* was uneasy for her to be gone, tho' she reported she would have her stay to Lye-in there, fearing that she should Cry-out in her House: And when she went away, she told Mr. *Hall* she was going into the Country to Lye-in; tho' in truth Mrs. *Hall* dog'd the Coach, that carry'd her away, to a House where she was deliver'd in a certain Court in *Holbourn*.

We must not omit another Incident, that of Mr. *Sayers* breaking of a Set of *China*, which cost 20 l. upon her throwing his Cap at him twice as they were drinking of Tea, and all because he would not make a Gentleman to whom he lent his Coach pay for the Windows which were broken by Accident. And her valuing her self for the Present made her at *Astrop Wells* by a certain great Man, who, when Application was made to him to assist in the Reprieve of *Noble*, notwithstanding what favourable Answers were given, said after her going away, *She was a d — — d B — — h, he would not stir in it*, or such like Words.

We have heard, that when Mrs. S — — was young with Child of the last, under the pretext of another Illness, *Noble* solicited a certain Person for forcing Medicines, and had them; but they not effecting what they wanted them for, he went to him again, and told him she was certainly with Child, and desir'd Medicines to cause Miscarriage; but he declining meddling in such an Affair, *Noble* said, he must then apply to some body else; therefore to prevent what danger might really happen upon his so doing, he gave him innocent Medicines which could do no harm, and took his Money for them, well knowing it was impossible for them

to

to cause Miscarriage; and they accordingly not effecting what they so earnestly desir'd, both by word of Mouth and a long Letter from Noble, blaming mightily his want of Skill upon the unsuccessfulness of the Medicines; he desir'd to see the Person with Child, and upon Examination of her at a Tavern with her Mask on, found she was near, if not altogether quick with Child, and told her and Noble, that it was dangerous as well as unlawful for her to take any Medicines, or use any means to cause Miscarriage.

Noble's Letter on the Account of the failure of the Medicines, which they flatter'd themselves would be effectual, was as full of moving Expressions, as to the great Consequence of the irreparable Injury to the Person with Child, as his Speech at his Sentence was to save his Neck, we are assur'd, it is such a Letter as shews the Principle of the Writer, as well as the Person on whose behalf it was written, and should be printed at large, were we not loath to burthen his Memory with what they call *needlest Aggravations*.

The following Circumstances of the Carriage of Mrs Sayer to her Husband, and his Carriage to her I had from very near Relations. He never gave her a cross Word but when he was provok'd to it by her continual Vexations, but hard Words and Names were some of his best Entertainment. It happen'd one time, that he gave her a little Jostle in Anger, which she being a light Dame, threw her down. Upon this the Mother ran up to him, Collar'd him, and cry'd, *Let us throttle him once for all.* A few Days before the Elopement, they broke open his Cabinet to see if they could find any Letters of his that might discover a Commerce with other Women, and meeting with none, the Lady last mention'd cry'd, *If we can find nothing we must invent.* The same Person talking with Mrs Sayer the Mother of Mr Sayer, said, *How happy should I have been in so Honest and so Peaceable a Husband as my Son in Law.* The very Day Mr Sayer's Wife

Wife elop'd, the Lady his Mother went to *Lislestreet* to see what was the Matter there. Her Son was in his Chamber ill of the Gout, but as soon as he heard his Mother's Voice talking with Mrs S——y, he came hobling down Stairs, and when he enter'd the Room where they were, he said, applying himself to Mrs S——y, *Well, Madam, Now here's my Mother, pray before her say whether I have deserved this Usage.* Mrs S——y cry'd, *why No, I can't say you have, but when a Man has broken his Marriage Vow such a Man is not to be liv'd with.* For the Disaster that had befall'n him 7 or 8 Years before was always remembered and made a Pretence to use him as they pleas'd. Sometimes Mr Sayer would come home late and find his Wife abroad, of which he would complain to Mrs S——y very reasonably, demanding what Business a Woman could have out at 2 or 3 a Clock in the Morning. This just Jealousy Mrs S——y would call Uneasinesses in him which gave great Offence, and would say, *Why, Mr. Sayer, should you be so uneasie, is not such a one with her, and where there are two there can be harm.* She was very covetous in every thing but what made a Shew, and having by his Easiness, the whole management of his Estate, except 150 or 200*l.* a Year, which he reserv'd for himself, she commonly made him dine poorly and at such Hours, that he frequently chose to go into Company and eat elsewhere. The Debt of 1100*l.* mentioned in the first Part of this Case to be owing to Mrs Nevil, was secur'd to her by a Mortgage, and the Money Mrs Sayer carried off with her, was laid by to discharge it.

When She was with Child of the Brat that she was deliver'd of in *Somersetshire*, the Father of it began to grow cold to her, which forwarded Noble's Fortune with her. The Lady was so generous in bestowing of her Favours, that she prevented the Question, and sav'd her Gallants the trouble of Courtship, or one cannot imagine how Noble durst have presum'd to corrupt her, after so much Civility as he had met with in the Family. One of her Lovers, a Man of the

Sword,

Sword, was forbidden the House by Mr. Sayer; however he still came, and they were soon meet-
 ing one another in the Entry one Evening, when
 it was a Thousand to One, the Mischief that fol-
 low'd, had not been done at that time. To hide
 her great Belly, she made an Excuse to go into
 the Country, and the good Women of Biddleston
 visiting her, took Notice of her Plumpness, which
 he wou'd turn off thus, *Ay, says she, I shall ne-
 ver get rid of the Injury my Husband did me.* A
 Tenant's Wife, who had more Courage than the
 rest of 'em, told her plainly she lookt as if she
 was with Child, and that the Parish talk'd of it.
 He reply'd, *If I am, it must be a Bastard, for I
 have not been in a Bed with Mr. Sayer these Six
 years.* Noble took care of her, and of her Off-
 spring. When her Time was drawing on, she
 writ to him to come away with all speed. Mr.
 Sayer was out of the way; the Coast clear, down
 he goes, and brings her to Lisle-Street, where she
 stay'd Two or Three Days, and then he carry'd
 her into the West, as has been mention'd already.
 One of his first Adventures with her, was manag'd
 thus: Mrs. Sayer and a young Lady, were in that
 young Lady's Bed-Chamber late at Night, on a
 sudden Noble recollects himself, and finds 'twas to
 purpose to go to his Chambers, his Clerks
 wou'd be gone to Bed, fast asleep, and he shou'd
 freeze at the Door, before he cou'd get in,
 which was very inconvenient, he having a great
 cold upon him. If the Ladies wou'd let him sit
 in the Easy Chair there, he would desire no
 more, and it was Inhumane to refuse him so small
 Favour. Away runs Madam to the Old Lady,
 tells her how the Case stood, and the Danger
 to her Health was in. *If that be all,* says the
 person consulted, *He may e'en stay, wrap himself up
 in a blanket, and there's no fear of his catching Cold.* Things
 thus agreed on, the Lady return'd to her
 patient, and about an Hour after, they were both
 missing.

missing. There was another Room not far off, which it is true was Colder, but however it is suppos'd, they did not feel it. *Noble* was great with *Mr. Sayer*, about a Year before he discover'd his Intrigue with his Wife. He never knew she was with Child of the Brat last mention'd, so careful were they in keeping it from him. While his Wife was at *Biddleſden*, when he thought she ſtay'd there too long, he wou'd ſay, *If ſhe will not come to me, I will go to Her.* Mrs. S ——— always diſſwaded her from it, ſaying, *Stay till thoſe little Quarrels are forgotten.* His Wife liv'd in continual Terror there. She and her Maid wou'd ſit Working at a Window, to be on the Watch, the Houſe being ſo Situated, that any one might be ſeen half a Mile off. A Chaiſe lay ready with Linnen packt up, and her Hood and Scarfe in it, to drive away as ſoon as ever they had ſight of him. But they contriv'd Means to keep him ſafe enough of, amuſing him from time to time with Trivial Excuses. She did not ſtay long in the *West*, and as ſhe herſelf told Mrs. *Scoffen* the Midwife ſhe got an Illneſs by coming away after ſhe had been deliver'd ſcarce Three Weeks. One wou'd wonder how a Lady delicately bred, and of ſo ſane Conſtitution, ſhould venture out of her Chamber ſo long a Journey as above Fourſcore Miles in ſo little a time after her Delivery; but *Love* is impatient, and Guilt ever in a Fright. What fine orderly Family there was, one may have had Notion of by this Paſſage; An Innocent Young Wench, coming into Mrs. *Sayer's* Service, and ſurpriſing her in a very Indecent Poſture, ſitting with her Legs on *Noble's* Lap. The poor Girl was amazed and ran back out of the Room: She immediately went to Mrs. S ——— and told her what ſhe had ſeen, that ſhe might reprove her for it. *How can you Baſe,* ſays the Ancient Gentlewoman, *you make Obſervations, ſuch a Slut as you are, ſit to live in a Family.* She had not only an

version to her Husband, but to her Son also for his sake, she frequently declaring, *She hated him because he was so like his Father.*

Mr. Richard Noble, the Subject of this Tragical Story, was a Man of good Sense, and had he turn'd his Head to Business, as fit for it as any body. His Speech after Conviction, which has been printed, shews it; 'twas written by himself, tho' it must be own'd too, that his Council who assisted him at *Kingston*, are suspected to have been advis'd with about it, and that the subject Matter of it is not entirely true, as will be made appear presently. For where- as he says in it, that the Jury *sat up all Night, believing there was no Malice at that time.* Noble must needs know, that the Jury were forc'd to sit up all Night, the Court having sat 19 Hours and half on his Trial, being adjourn'd, and after that Adjourn- ment the Jury cou'd not bring in a Verdict till the next Morning. They were doubtless more inclin'd to Sleep than to Debate, as well they might, after so long Attention to the Cause. They did indeed argue the Case for about an Hour, and cou'd not agree upon it: Some were for bringing it in *Malice*, of others *Man-slaughter*. Two particularly, Mr B — and Mr W — were for bringing him in *Guilty*, and stickled for it, Mr C — the Foreman not coming into that Opinion till the Morning. However, as I have hinted, all that time I can assure the Reader was not spent in Argument, and when 'twas resum'd by them, 'twas not long before they all agreed to refer to the Judgment of the Court as to the Proof of the Malice, upon which he was immediately after brought in *Guilty*. 'Tis thought he wou'd have done himself no Diservice, had he not challeng'd so many of the Pannel as he did. He had a Copy of it, and confess'd after Condemnation he had inquir'd into the Characters of the Persons return'd, and wou'd have given 1000*l.* to have brib'd them. But his

Endeavours fail'd, and the Jury (who were for the most part Gentlemen) did him Justice, and were not much above two Hours in debating it.

James Camben, Esq; Fore-

Edward Chalkhill, [man,

Henry Wakeford,

Edward Parkhurst,

Jonathan Wiltshire,

Edward Exall,

Thomas Fox,

John Bandford,

Philip Becham,

John Hind,

Robert Wood,

John Porterton.

Noble said, the Reason why he challeng'd so many was with a Design to be try'd singly, to prevent the Adultery being brought upon the Stage, his Council telling him, that Matter wou'd not be suffer'd to be touch'd upon, cou'd he get a single Tryal, nor wou'd Mrs. Sayer's Carriage to her Husband have been expos'd; both which were terrible Aggravations of his Crime. He objected most against the Bailiff's Evidence, and in the main thought he had hard Usage, which will be consider'd further hereafter. He alledg'd in his Speech, that Dr. Garth inform'd him the Wound was so slight, it was a Thousand to one he dy'd of it; and James Terry, Servant to Mr Sayer, who took Care of his Master's Body from the time of the Murder to that of his Burial, assur'd me, Dr. Garth did never see the Wound, and so it was impossible for him to have any such Information. After the Tryal was over, Noble put in a Petition to the Judge for Time, and Mr Lee (the Clerk of the Assizes) gave him some hopes that he might have a little Favour, which he depended upon so much to the very last Minute, that he did not think of writing the Paper he left behind him till Friday the 27th of March about two or three a Clock in the Afternoon. He had made several Attempts to procure a Respite for some Days, as well, as he pretended

in behalf of his Clients, as for his own sake to prepare himself for another World. Indeed while he was in *Kingston Goal* after Condemnation, he wrote out two Quire of Paper, and had his Clerk to attend him. After the Reverend Mr *B*—— Vicar of the Parish had visited him, the *Sunday* before Execution, he was pleased to speak himself to the *L. C. J.* for a Reprieve: But tho' the Prosecutors joy'd with Mr —— in it, *Noble* was so great an Offender, they cou'd not prevent his being put into the Dead Warrant with the rest of the Malefactors. He offer'd, if he could get a few Days Respite, to restore Mr *Sayer's* Writings, which, as he said, were not in his Custody; but he knew who had them, and wou'd procure them. To this it was answer'd, That since in Conscience he was oblig'd to do it, it was an ill sign of Penitence to pretend to *chaffer* for a Reprieve by such an Offer.

The Behaviour of Mr *Noble* in the *Marshalsea* was very different from what it was at the *Stock-house* in *Kingston*. He never once went to Prayers or Sermons, tho' the Reverend Mr *Rawlins*, Preacher there, sent to him several Times, and wrote the following Letter.

Mr. Noble,

TIS no small Surprise to me, to find the Hopes I had form'd to my self of having your Company at Prayers; especially when God has so graciously been pleas'd to give you one Call more to Repentance, by the Commencement of the Holy Season, wherein the Church does more solemnly extite her Members to it; whom God, according to his abundant Mercy, has begotten again to a lively hope, by the Resurrection of *Jesus Christ* from the Dead, to an Inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, &c. of finding you in the Dispositions which become a Man in your sad Circumstances: I say 'tis no small Surprise to me,

me, to find those pleasing hopes entirely defeated. For
 who I cannot Address you in those awful Words of the
 Prophet, to a great and a good Man, 1. Kings 20. 1.

Thus saith the Lord, let thy House in order, for
 thou shalt surely die: yet since Fame denies you an
 even Chance to the contrary, I thought it became me to
 represent to you the absolute Necessity of your preparing
 for that great and last Change, if ever you will hope for
 the Pardon of your Sins, and the Salvation of your Im-
 mortal Soul; to secure both which ought to be your chiefest
 Care, and the Center of all your Endeavours; and you
 ought to bless God that you have so much more time for
 this than many are priviledg'd with in your unhappy Case,
 and to make such an Improvement of it, as will best An-
 swer the Ends for which Providence has put it into your
 Hands. I shall be very glad, Sir, if I could be service-
 able to you in the furtherance of so good and happy a
 Work; in order whereto, I have more than once desir'd,
 that you might be told, that I should be glad to pay a
 Visit at your Chamber, but this Message has still met with
 Obstructions, which have oblig'd me to take this Method
 of delivering it my self, and of desiring at the same time,
 that you will leave your Answer with my Clark, unless
 you chuse to let me see you at Prayers, which I should
 joyfully prefer.

In the mean time, Sir, let me intreat you for God's
 sake, and for your own Soul's sake, to keep at distance
 from those Women, who having so little Regard to your
 Person as to expose your Body to untimely Rain, will never
 scruple to betray your Soul too into eternal Perdition. It
 nearly concerns you to guard against this, which I the
 Father inculcate, because I am sensible, that as long as
 you're flush'd with Money you cannot want for Flatterers,
 who will continually be buoying you up with that pernici-
 ous Temptation, Gen. 3. 4. Ye shall not surely die.
 But pray, Sir, consider from whom it came originally,
 and how many of the fatal Consequences of its prevailing
 Power we all feel to this Day. I have no other Concern
 about the Success of this Letter, than what is caused by
 the hearty Compassion I have for your Soul, and my sin-
 cere

ere desire that you may be of the happy Number of those
 whom God according to the abundant Mercy hath, &c.
 which I persuade my self will pass for an ample Apology
 for this Address, from your most humble Servant,
 G. R. Preacher at the
 Second Day in Lent. *Marshalsea.*

He never forgave this Charity, the Care of his
 Souls Concerns, all the while he was in that Prison,
 saying, this Free and Necessary dealing with him was
 insulting him; nay, it is to be fear'd that not many
 Hours before his Death, he was not in much better
 Temper with Mr Rawlins; for I am inform'd he should
 tell him, I should be sorry to go out of the World not in
 Charity with any Man, much less with a Clergy-man.
 This Gentleman visited him at the same time with
 Mr Sayer's Mother and two Sisters, who gave them-
 selves the trouble to go to Kingston on a mistaken
 Report, that Noble had a desire to see them, to com-
 municate some things to them for the Benefit of the
 Family. When they came there, they sent to Mr.
 Noble to let him know they were in Town, and if he
 had any thing to say to them were ready to hear it;
 Noble answer'd sullenly, They were misinform'd as to
 his Desire to see them; that he was sorry they had given
 themselves that trouble; however since they had, they
 might come if they pleased; which they did accord-
 ingly, and a Melancholy Interview it must needs be
 to Ladies of Compassionate Natures, tho' the Blood
 of a Son and Brother pleaded so strongly against Pity.
 The Ladies did not upbraid him with the spilling of
 it; all they said was, That they were sorry he was so
 little sensible of his Guilt as to justify in any wise so
 wicked an Action. The truth is Noble express'd him-
 self to this purpose: He was sorry for the Death of the
 Man,

*Man, yet it being a Man who intended to murder him, he cou'd not say he was sorry he did it in his own Defence. One that had any Acquaintance with Mr Sayer's easy Disposition, will presently perceive Mr Noble was not at that Time in the Frame of Spirit 'tis to be hop'd he was in afterwards. 'Twas likely indeed he shou'd be afraid of being murder'd by such a peaceable Man as was Mr Sayer; but that the latter was afraid of him is plain, from an Expression of his at John's Coffee-house in the Old Baily not long before he was kill'd, *This Matter will surely end in Blood*; and that his fears were not groundless, one may see by a Letter which was sent him from an Agent of his Adversaries about two Months before he was murder'd. He began to press them in Law pretty much, *Noble*, as has been said, was likely to be sent to Goal for the 500 *l.* Action; other Suits were commenc'd against him by Mr Sayer, and his Friends the Ladies finding it wou'd be best to have things made up by Reference, got a Letter to be sent him by another Friend of his and theirs, which ends with this Expression. 'Tis dated the 2d of January last.*

If you refuse this way of Accommodation by Reference, it will convince me that you are not sensible of the Unhappy Catastrophe that must attend you.

It is sign'd *J. Thompson*, and too long to be inserted entire, and to too little purpose, I might fill a Volume with Letters on this subject, but I shall take notice only of such as are most material. This Reference went so far as a Meeting. An Agent for Mr Sayer drew up a Plan of Demands for her upon him, and for him upon her; the chief of which was, That Mr Sayer should give a Bond in a considerable Sum, never to make any Reflections on his Wife, nor Speak a Word to her Disparagement. A very just Article this. She was not to cohabit with him by this Accommodation

ation, that wou'd not be heard of; she cou'd not
 art with *Noble*: And yet her Husband must not say
 Word of her but what was in her Praise. If he
 ould happen to say she *liv'd with another Man*, that
 uly had been to her Disparagement, and *Noble* had
 ot so much Business but he wou'd have found leisure
 o put the Bond in Suit; notwithstanding all which,
 id he after his Condemnation appeal to Mr *Rawlins*
 efore mentioned for the Justice of this very Refe-
 ence. He also drew up a Case, which was deliver'd
 that to a certain Nobleman since Sentence of Death;
 Let- wherein among other Falsities was this, *that both Mr*
 dver- *Sayer's Children were born with Symptoms of the Pox*:
 ler'd. Whereas I have been assured by several who were
Noble, early related to them, that both those Children,
 r the Daughter and Son, were at their Birth as Sound and
 gainst Beautiful as ever they saw, and continued so till
 nding Death took away the Daughter by a Disease incident
 Refe- Children, and the Son now living is the hopes of
 iend his afflicted Family, whose Misfortune in this Mar-
 ssion.riage of Mr. *Sayer* is beyond Example or Express-
 on.

When *Noble* was going from the *Marshalsea* to
Kingston to his Tryal, the Two Windows of his
 each were shut up on both sides, to prevent the Spec-
 tors gazing at him and the Ladies, but just as he
 me over-against the Gallows, then newly Erected,
 the Hill about a Mile from the Town, the Win-
 ow next the Gallows, fastned as it was, dropt down
 its self, which he took for an *Omen* of his Condem-
 tion, tho' he was buoy'd up by his Council, Sollici-
 rs, and all that were about him, that he shou'd be
 acquitted. This Piece of Superstition, he told
 e of the Divines that attended him, either some
 ours before, or on the way to his Execution. I
 ve however other Information, and that he scarce
 ought of Death, till he heard the *Dead Warrant* was
 gn'd, which was told him by a Minister, on *Tuesday*
 e 24th of *March*. He had the Affairs of several
 ients in his Hands, and one of 'em who had entrusted

him with an Assignment of 300*l.* which he cou'd not get of him before, but had it honestly restor'd to him the 25th, after Three Hours Attendance. He receiv'd the News of the *Dead Warrant* at first with seeming Resignation, but when he began to think of it in earnest, it struck him with Horror. He was in a Terrible Consternation, Walkt and Groan'd all Night. He wou'd do nothing before in his Affairs as an Attorney : And truly one can hardly blame him, that he employ'd all his Time in endeavouring to preserve so Pretious a Thing as Life.

He wou'd very feign have made his Case a Party Cause, and have engag'd both Sides in his Interest. To the Lord — he represented it as a Prosecution push'd on by the *Whigs*. To the Lord — as done out of Spite to him by the *Tories* : But this may be said for both Sides, that since he Committed this *Horrid Murder*, and his Adultery with the Wife of the Deceas'd became Publick, neither Side car'd to own him. However, since he must be rank'd with one I shall take the Account of his State Principles from a good Friend of his, Mr. *A* — who attended him to the Place of Execution ; And some time after, being in Conversation with the Divines that went also to the Gallows with him, he to confirm them in their good Opinion of *Noble's Exit*, declar'd he was a *Staunch Tory*, and gave this Instance of it ; that a certain Friend of his wanting a Place, apply'd to him to sollicite for him, which, said he, *He would not do, till he knew whether he was a Staunch Churchman* ; saying *Otherwise he wou'd by no means be concern'd*. He was sure this was his Principle, for that he had been intimate with him in all the Circumstances of his Life for the Truth of which I refer my self to those Ministers. By which it appears, he was a *Staunch Tory* a Character that I am sure all *Honest Tories* are as much asham'd of, as *Honest Whigs*. There being no difference between *Staunch* and *Jacobite*, I shall now examine whether his dear Friend spoke Truth of him or not, but take it upon his Trust, having been

Witness of his Intimacy in the last Tragical Scene of his Life.

Mr. *Noble's* Brother and Sister-in-Law came to *Kingston* to him upon his Condemnation. 'Tis said he wou'd not see them before; he was afterwards very desirous of his Brother's Company, as well he might, he being a very Honest Man, and an Affectionate Brother. Neither he nor any of the Family, are accountable for this Unhappy Man's Guilt, nor shou'd they be in the least involv'd in the Shame. Their Parents were very good People, and the Trouble it must occasion to all their Relations, that such was the end of one of 'em, touch'd every Body with Compassion. 'Twill be as Wicked as Barbarous, for any one to confound the Innocent with the Guilty, or to lessen their Respect for the Living, out of a Detestation of the Crimes of the Dead. Whoever does it, which I hope none are so Cruel to do, I shall never be of the Number.

Noble's Behaviour at his Tryal, was with an Assurance very ill becoming his Guilt, but after his Condemnation, he was very Meek and Affable, which so gain'd him the Pity of the Towns People of *Kingston*, that one of 'em Mr. *B*— told me a Lady, Lodger of his, wou'd have given 500*l.* to have purchas'd his Pardon. He had no Irons on during his Imprisonment, till the Moment he was Condemn'd; neither did he lye till then in the Goal at *Kingston*, but at the House of Mr. *Hopkins* the Brasier. *Mrs. Salusbury* and *Mrs. Sayer*, at Mr. *Charlwoods* the Attorney; so favourably were they dealt with under such a heavy Charge, for which I doubt not, those that had the keeping of them were well paid. After Condemnation, *Noble* was call'd upon to come down, and have his Irons put on; a Barbarity which is a Scandal to a Protestant and Civiliz'd Country, there being Ways enough to secure Prisoners, without loading them with Chains. He offer'd 1*l.* and 5*s.* a Day a piece, for 10 Men to attend him, if they wou'd not so load him with Irons. But

the Goaler, who, as I observ'd in my former Part, had taken so much of his Money, wou'd not now be contented with so little. *Noble* burst out into Tears, and earnestly pray'd he might not have the Weight of Chains on him, which was prepar'd. The hard Hearted Wretch was Deaf, and saying it must be so, he still Weeping, cry'd, *Is the Room clear below or else he wou'd not go down.* The Barbarian telling him all were turn'd out, he follow'd him, and the Irons were knockt on his Legs. Here I shou'd have forgotten the Prisoner's Crime, and have been fir'd with Indignation against such *Russian* like Treatment. It is absurd, and Ridiculous to pretend, a Prisoner cannot be answer'd for without such Inhumanity. There's nothing in more, than the Cruel Extortion of the Goalers; an Infamous Practice which ought not to be winkt at in so Free and Good Natur'd a Nation. I confess I did not hear this Part of the Story with dry Eyes, and I wish it may as much affect those who have it in their Power, to correct the Abuses of Goals and Goalers.

It was in these Chains he made his Speech after Sentence, having first desir'd leave of the Judge to lean on the Bar, he having not strength enough to support himself and his Irons without it. He was allow'd to do it, and it wou'd have been very hard if it had been deny'd him. He was very Liberal in Prison, and allow'd the 5 other condemned Malefactors 6 d. a piece a Day till they were executed. It was 4 or 5 Days after Condemnation, that he shew'd in earnest a Disposition to Repentance, his Head being full of Projects for a Reprieve, in hope of a Pardon. He then express'd himself, very sensible of his past Wickednesses, and I am told one of the first Effects of his Penitence, was a Letter from *Mrs. Sayer*, to warn her of the Danger her Soul was in, and to exhort her to an Amendment of Life. He desir'd an Inhabitant of the Place to lend him some Religious Books. This Inhabitant happen

to be a Dissenter, recommended one of Mr *Baxter's* to him, which treating of Murder and Adultery, *Noble* said to the Man when he saw him next, *You have hit my Case.*

As to the outward Appearances of Repentance in him, they were Strong and Affecting. I discoursed with two or three of the Divines that were with him after Condemnation. I acknowledge here, that it was not with either of those who have printed their Names to *Noble's* Paper, I having been assur'd he had open'd himself more at large to another, who was so kind as to communicate to me his Confession.

As I have in all the Course of this Relation taken Care to get my *Memoirs* from the best Hands, so to prevent being impos'd upon by *Hearsay*, I went to *Kingston*, staid there some time, got the most Authentick Information it was possible to procure, and such as I suppose none of those who have been pleas'd to question the Sincerity of all Accounts hitherto publish'd but their own, will think fit to question, if they do, it will oblige me to give such Proofs of the Veracity of this, as will probably make it as difficult as ungrateful for them to controvert.

What I have seen of that kind I expected, but shall not now give my Reasons for it, not, I must confess, so much for the sake of some of the Persons that did it as for that of their Character, which I shall always pay as much Regard to as any Man living; but when they themselves throw that by for any Consideration whatsoever, I desire the World will excuse me if I follow the Example they set me, and not defend in *Generals* what I shall attack only in *Particulars*.

There having been so very few Digressions in this Narrative, I hope I may be indulg'd in this, since in every thing else I so much consult the Pleasure of my Readers.

As to the former Part of my Relation, I have more than once conjur'd such as I know must be acquainted with the whole *Detail* of it, to tell me if in any part of it I have misunderstood or misrepresented any

any one Fact; and I here declare on the Word of a Christian, the best Affirmation a true Protestant can make, I have not yet heard of one material Objection. If those that have so magisterically given out, that my Accounts have been so very *false* and *needless*, have the Leisure or Inclination to prove 'em to be so, I here defy them to do it, as far as it relates to me; and if they do not, I desire the Reader to do me the Justice to take those Words to be no more than what I suppose they were intended for, meer Air. Not that I am at all ambitious of a Dispute of this kind, for excepting one of the Persons, for whom I have always had and shall have the Respect due to his Merit, and whom I shall not look upon as a Volunteer in such a Dispute, I should be so far from valuing my self upon a Triumph, that I should be heartily asham'd of it, and wou'd never have been concern'd in it, but for the Homage which every honest Man is oblig'd to pay to Truth.

It was necessary for me to premise this, that People who are prejudic'd by *great* Names and *greater* Titles, may condescend to read a Paper that has the Presumption to come out without any of those Advantages. After this I shall have a Care of saying any thing that does not immediately relate to my Subject, and of this I was not the Occasion.

Mr *Noble* was not Master of his Company any more than he was of his Person, and I am satisfy'd if the Man had been left entirely to the Liberty of his Will, that is, if no manner of Influence had interpos'd, no Claims been made, and none come but when sent for, nor stay'd longer than he would have had them, abundance of Doubts had been prevented. Be it as it will, I shall not trouble my self about it, but proceed to his Behaviour as a Penitent.

Mr *Noble* was not without hopes of some Respite of the Sentence, till *Friday* in the Afternoon, and he then sent to a Friend of his to come to him with a Minister from *London*, who had been with him, had

not

not his Horses been taken lame, and others could not be got in Time.

He had some Days before desired the Assistance of a Gentleman, who very charitably and cheerfully attended him, but gave him to understand, tho' he should be glad to be serviceable to him in his Preparations for another World, he would by no means concern himself in any Endeavours for his Continuance in this, he being an Offender of that kind as did not admit of any other Compassion than what had Respect to his Salvation.

It was the same Person that gave him Notice of the Dead Warrant being come for him, which he heard of in Company of *Noble's* Brother, at a Coffee House at *Kingston*. The latter was too much discomposed to be the Messenger of such a Terrible Message, and the former carry'd it so prudently, that it was not shocking to him, to whom it was the Voice of Death.

He frankly own'd to that Minister, ' That he had led a Sinful and Lewd Life; but he was not easily brought to be effected for the Murder, so much as it was thought he should have been, insisting upon it, that 'twas Fear or Surprise, and not premeditated Malice.' I shall be as impartial in this as well as all other Parts of my Narrative as possible. I wou'd hope the Man's Repentance was sincere; I will not make my self a Judge of his Heart, but only mention what Facts I know, and leave the Judgment to the Reader. He frequently said, ' That he had often resolved in his Mind, never to be the Death of Mr *Sayer*, from a Consciousness of the Injuries he had done him; nay tho' he shou'd kick him, he had come to a Resolution to bear it. He did not think his Crime was Murder in the Eye of the Law, and objected to the last against *Farrington* the Bailiff's Oath: He said, he wou'd write to all the Women to exhort them to an Amendment of Life.

One of them, Mrs. Sayer, came to Kingston the Day before he was executed, in the Disguize of a Servant Maid, and sent a Letter to him, giving him Notice, that she was there, and so disguised that if he wou'd she might easily come to him, notwithstanding the Orders the *Goalers* had not to admit her.

Noble upon reading the Letter, did not seem averse to seeing her, but the Divines who attended him dissuaded him from it, and the Answer he sent her was to this effect: *He was a Man still, and liable to Passions: She had Time, and might recover; he had but a very short Time, and that he must employ about the Concerns of his Soul.*

It is certain he saw none of the Women after his Conviction; but they were busy in soliciting a Reprieve for him. There's however something odd in the Visit which Madam intended him, if it be true, that she came from *Twyford's* in the *Mint*, the very House where her Husband was kill'd, and where *Noble* did the Fact, for which he was so soon to dye; especially if it be also true, that the Night before there were Merry Doings there, and the Company were not all of one Sex. But as such things do not make a part of my Subject, I shall not enquire into them, nor into that Lady's future Conduct, with which I have nothing to do: It will be well if she and all the Parties concern'd take the Advice their dying Friend gave them, which is the only way for them to wipe off all Stains, if theirs are not indelible.

A Man coming to *Noble* about Business, he knowing him to be a great Sinner, reprov'd him for his debauch'd Course of Life, and admonish'd him to repent. When he endeavour'd, as he did, to palliate his Crime, by urging it was not done out of Malice or Fore-thought, the Minister represented to him, ' That it was the Wickedness of his Heart, and the ' Criminal Conversation he had with the Wife of the

Deceas'd

Deceas'd, which occasion'd the Surprize or other Passion which prompted him to kill Mr *Sayer*, and therefore his killing him was really Murder in the sight of God. This he was brought to be sensible of, and own'd and lamented it. He kindly receiv'd all Assistances which were offer'd him by Ministers or others, to prepare him for Death. Besides the Ministers, there was an Inhabitant of *Kingston* who frequently visited and pray'd with him, the same who lent him Books, and after Execution attended him to his Grave; the same who was so kind as to speak to Mr *Noble's* Brother to procure me a Copy of the Paper which is now printed, and a copy of it was promised me 5 or 6 Hours before the execution. But it was warmly insisted on by one of the Persons who attended *Noble*, that it belong'd only to him, by virtue of an Office he had, and the brother said, *he would not disturb a dying Man about such a Trifle*, desiring there might be no more Noise made about it, in which he was very much in the right; for I must own I cou'd not have stickled myself for such a paultry Perquisite, when there was a poor Creature just going out of the World so near me. I think fit to take Notice of this Passage, that might not be pretended there is any better Authority than I have for what I say; and to shew I knew of that Paper as well as any body, and should well have had a Copy of it, had I not been interrupted for the sake of a small Advantage, which I could have given my self, rather than Words should have been made of it, at a Time when the Writer of the Rough Draught at least was so near sealing it with his Blood.

The *Wednesday* or *Thursday* before the Day of execution, Three Divines coming to visit him, they heard another, who differ'd from 'em in Opinion, about Indifferent Points, at Prayer with him, and two of them wou'd have gone into them, but the Third wou'd not let them, saying if they

they had any Complaints to make, it shou'd be regularly to the Bishop, and that they shou'd not interrupt their Devotions. However, the Goaler was checkt for admitting that other Minister, as he told me himself, and that notwithstanding their Check, he was resolv'd he shou'd be admitted as often as he came, till he was commanded by the Higher Powers to the contrary. This Incident occasion'd abundance of Reflections in me, and a Contempt of that Zeal which extends its Fury even beyond the Grave. Cou'd those Men think, that when Death stares a Man in the Face, there is such a Thing as Party about him, or that he has Time to enter into any of our Unhappy Distinctions in Religion. He will surely take hold of all Helps, and as there is Help in all Religions that are Protestant, he will no doubt, accept of that which suits his Case, of which, he who feels it, is the best Judge. There's no Affectation in a Dying Hour, no Wantonness of Thought, to contend about Words. Men in those Circumstances have doubtless a Horror for the want of Charity that they see in others, and would not for the World do without it. False Zeal indeed, will Flourish at the Gallows, as well as False Principles ; and there are some who are so taken with its Glaring, that it imposes on them for the True. I am willing to believe, that when Sir *William Perkins* was Hang'd for contriving to murder King *William*, Mr. *Cook*, one of the Three Nonjuring Clergy-men, who Absolv'd him before he was Turn'd off, thought him very Zealous and very Penitent, or he would not have Pronounc'd his Absolution. But we do not in our Church carry the Power of the Keys so far, as in the Church of *Rome* ; and if there is no perfect Contrition, I am afraid that Power, whoever has it, is useless. This is my last Digression, and one that I could not well avoid.

Noble's Guilt was urg'd upon him, as great and aggravated by the Indirect and Wicked Measure.

he took to prevent Conviction. He at first palliated that matter, particularly with relation to *Hannon's* Business, saying, *He had been inform'd Reeves was acquainted with People in the Mint, who knew something of the Fact*, and thus he was perswaded to make use of him; as in such Case, every Man is inclin'd to hearken to what seems likely to be serviceable to him. He confess'd, such was the Depravity of his Heart, he wou'd have corrupted them if he cou'd. As the Day of Execution drew nearer, the more visible were the Signs of his Repentance, yet he did not give over all Thoughts of Life, till Hours, and not a Day, were to measure the space of his Life. On *Tuesday* he wrote the following Letter to the Reverend Dr. *Bray*, who married one of the Deceas'd, Mr. *Sayer's* Sisters.

S I R,

I Hope by this Time you may be satisfied, that the little Time allow'd me since my Condemnation, hath not been misapply'd in the manner as reported — I need not tell you that Experience teaches me, that Repentance for Sins, and a due Preparation for another World, is a difficult Task for so great a Sinner as my self, that consequently more Time than is allotted me, must (by every thinking Christian) be thought very reasonable and necessary for me to desire: For that purpose I send this, most earnestly entreating (as you well know the value of a Soul) that, as a good Christian, you will endeavour to prevail with my Lord Chief Justice to commiserate my Misfortune, and the Danger of my Soul, so far as to indulge me with a little Time to secure my Happiness in the next World, though I am so miserable a Wretch, as not to be

thought

thought worthy of Living longer in this. The delivering and disposing of Writings and Papers to my Clyents, may well deserve your Consideration in order to have a little longer Time on that Account.

I cannot think that you, as an Honest Man, a good Christian, and Doctor of Divinity, will refuse to comply with what is so heartily and sincerely begged of you for the Purposes aforesaid, by

The Disconsolate, Dying

Tuesday Night.

Richard Noble

I hope the Ladies, whose Pardon I heartlly beg, will readily join with you in answering my Request, for my Soul's sake.

Dr. Bray has distinguish'd himself too much, by a Regular Zeal for the Advancement of the Purity of Religion and Manners, and the Propagation of the Gospel, to give any room to Doubt his Failure in Christian Charity to the Deceas'd, whom he was ready to assist, in procuring a Reprieve for his Soul's sake, but did indeed generously refuse to interpose for one, by bargaining with Noble, as he offer'd for the Interest of the Family, which he wou'd not regard, when Justice for the Blood of the Heir of was in Question. The Letter the Dr. wrote to Noble expresses his Sentiments so much better than I can do; that I shou'd do him an Injury, to add any thing to it. The beginning of it has relation to other Matters, that are needless to be mention'd in this Place, tho' they are True.

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Mr. Noble,

I Do with all my Soul Commiserate your deplorable Case,
and were it in my Power, there should be nothing want-
ing to gain you a Reprieve for some time, in order to
make your Peace with God by a sincere Repentance, before
you appear before his Tremendous Tribunal; but indeed
* * * * *

I am render'd Incapable to serve you. And give me leave
further to acquaint you, that my Lord himself has con-
sciv'd so hard an Opinion of you, that I believe no Inter-
cession in the World would be prevalent with him to Re-
prieve you.

And now poor Man, what shall I say to Comfort you
in this depress'd State of your Soul? To give you Hopes
of Pardon from God, without your thorough Repentance,
I must not presume to do it; and to declare that as a
sufficient Repentance which comes short of an entire and
open Confession of all the Enormities of your Life, espe-
cially of those which have brought you to this unhappy
End, would be to prevaricate with God and your poor
Soul. No Sir, if ever you'll expect any Comfort in your
dying Minutes, you must probe the Sore to the very Bot-
tom, and lay it open to all the World. You must acknow-
ledge your base Ingratitude to a Gentleman once so kind
to you, in stealing from him the Jewel he most valued,
the Heart of that unworthy Woman his Wife: You must
freely acknowledge, and deeply bewail your vile Course of
Life, and wicked Adulteries, for Years together with her.
You must discover her Bastards in Justice to the Deceased's
Posterity, it being all the Reparation you can make him;
You must make no Secret of your joint Designs and Con-
spiracies, to destroy him by poisoning or otherwise, and
own that this your last Act in the Tragedy was but the
compleating of what you did before Design. And so all
this black Catalogue of Crimes, you must not by any

means omit those horrible Methods you have taken to preserve your self, by suborning false Witnesses, bribing Jurymen, and the like: For to bring upon your self the Guilt of so many Perjuries, must vastly add to the too heavy load of your Treachery, Adulteries and Murder; And if those latter Practices were not done at your own Motion, you ought to detect those wicked Counsellors and Practitioners in so sinful a Cause.

These are Things I urge upon you, not to upbraid you, God is my Witness, but in order to gain the Peace of Conscience, and those Hopes of Mercy at God's Hands, which I am perswaded you cannot obtain upon less Terms. But upon such an open and free Confession of these and other Enormities of your Life, to the Glory of God's Justice, and the deterring of other Sinners, I am not without hopes you will find such Glimpses of Divine Favour spring up in your Soul, as will be exceedingly comfortable to you, and not a little raise you. And in order to convince you of this, give me leave to tell you what I have experienc'd in a like Case.

Some Years since, being sent for to a Sick Person in my Parish, and having had a great Suspicion that she had formerly liv'd lewdly, and practis'd Thievery, I suited my Exhortations accordingly; so that she resolv'd with herself, as she inform'd me afterwards, to make full Discovery to me. But flinching afterwards from these Resolutions, she felt such Distraction in her Soul, as if her Heart had been gnaw'd by Vipers, which notwithstanding she could not for a long time bring herself to the Shame of a Confession. But the severe lashes of her guilty Conscience growing more and more Intollerable to her, she at length became resolv'd to open the Sore to me; and having again sent for me, and taking me into a Parlour, she threw herself down prostrate on the Floor, and with a Flood of Tears, and the most piercing Lamentations, she discover'd her horrible Adulteries, her frequent Thieveries, and particularly that having stoln 45 l. from her Master, who had plac'd great Confidence in her, to cover her own Crime, she had the dexterity to cast it upon another, so that the Person was Try'd and Sentenc'd to Death, but afterward

Repriev'd and Pardon'd, and was then living. She with most doleful Groans beg'd my Prayers and Advice, what she must do to extricate herself, and regain the Favour of God. All that may be of use to inform you farther in the Case, was, that I drew up for her a Confession of her Crimes, and particularly of her Theft, and how she had brought an Innocent Person in danger of her Life for it; and to clear that Person's Innocence, I propos'd it as necessary she should cause that Confession should be openly read at Warwick, where the Theft had been committed, the Person had been Arrain'd, and did then live. She readily agreed to it, and it was accordingly done. It caus'd great Praise to be given to God, and the unhappy Sinner conceiv'd such Comfort, and felt such Joy in her Mind upon it, as cannot be express'd.

Sir, I beseech you try the Experiment; deal sincerely and openly with God and Man. Can you think to keep any thing secret from an All-seeing Eye? And what signifies it to blind the Eyes of Men for a few Minutes, whose Favours cannot help, whose good Opinion cannot comfort you? Give Glory to God's Justice in the detection of your most secret and blackest Crimes, and do Justice to those you have injur'd in such ways as are necessary to make satisfaction for those your Injuries; and after all throw yourself entirely upon God's Mercies in Christ, assuring yourself that tho your Sins are Innumerable, his Mercies are Infinite. And this if you shall do I am not without hopes, that with the Thief upon the Cross, you may be receiv'd at the last Hour to Mercy: And it will be happy for you, if you shall be receiv'd into his Company. And that God through Christ may be thus Merciful to you is the hearty Prayer of

S I R,

Your most Compassionate Servant,

And one that bears you not the least Enmity,

THOMAS BRAY.

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S I R,

Your most Compassionate Servant,

And one that bears you not the least Enmity,

THOMAS BRAY.

The Prisoner despairing of a Reprieve, upon the Return of a Messenger he sent to *London*, soon after he saw the Dead Warrant, said, *He wou'd then go no more to Bed.* When the Keeper brought him the Warrant, and he read it, He said, *'Tis Right, I, and the other Five Condemn'd Persons are to Dye, Welcome be the Will of the Lord.* He then set to Writing his Last Paper, which he read to a Gentleman who Pray'd with him for the Last Time. That Gentleman objected to the first Paragraph, and shew'd him how much he wou'd be in the Wrong, to form several Negatives into an Affirmative; and then charge the Reputation of one of the Greatest Magistrates in *England*, with what he cou'd not make out. Mr. Noble seem'd dispos'd to alter that Paragraph, and it was said to have been soften'd the Night before he Dy'd. But as soft as it is, the Fact remains without Proof; and we have only his Word against the Affirmations of all who were acquainted with the Affair. He says his Clients made Affidavit, but he does not say what sort of Clients they were, nor before whom they were sworn; nor that they were Persons who cou'd not be suppos'd to have such mighty Concerns of theirs in his Hands, as to require the putting a stop to Justice; especially when the Government was of Opinion, that the Time given him, was too much Grace for a Criminal of his size. I do not intend this as an Insult on his Memory, God forbid that I shou'd so rake into the Ashes of the Dead; but as we must be Cautious in that Point, we must also remember there's something due to the Characters of the Living, and that the Innocent must not suffer, because the Guilty are no more.

Besides the other Efforts before mentioned, to procure a Respite, he desir'd one *Martyn*, a Quaker of *Kingston*, who knew Mrs. Sayer, the Mother of the Deceas'd, to go to her, and excuse what was taken
amiss

amiss in his Behaviour when the Ladies Visited him in Prison; upon which Mrs. Sayer wrote him a Letter, Dated the 23d of March, giving him to understand, it was in Vain for him to expect Pity or Assistance from Her, who had the Blood of her Only Son crying against him for Justice.

I shall now proceed to give some further Account of Mr. Noble's Behaviour before Execution; in which will appear those Marks of Penitence, as obliges us to hope the best, as well as wish it. I could not without Weeping, hear the Relation of it, and I must confess the Sight would have melted me into a softness that some Men would be asham'd of; but we read the strongest Minds have been subject to it, as well as the weakest. *Cesar's* Eyes were moistned at the sight of a Dead Enemy, and a Greater than *Cesar*, *JESUS* Wept. Those who think Tears are Womanish, will surely reckon Compassion to be a folly, and it is not to such that I write.

The Day before he was Executed, his Brother speaking to a Friend that was by, to signify to another who was absent, the hopes he had of his Repentance, Mr. Noble over-hearing him as he was busy writing his Paper, burst out into Tears, and said, *My Name ought not to be mentioned, but with Abhorrence of all Men, for the Wickedness of my Life, and I only desire to be accepted of God, who, I hope, knows my sincerity.* I pray God that he may be accepted, having had no manner of Malice to him while Living; on the contrary I could have said, as a Gentleman said on the same Occasion, tho' I should have given my Vote for his Death, if it had depended on my vote, as the only Attonement could be made for the blood of Mr. Sayer; yet I shou'd not afterwards have helpt pitying his Condition, being such, that mercy to him had been almost as Wicked as the murder. A Friend speaking to him, how Happy he was in having so much Time to prepare himself, he reply'd Weeping, *I gave him no Time, adding,*

That tho' he wou'd not be Uncharitable he fear'd he had destroy'd the Soul as well as the Body of the Deceas'd. When he was wishing the L. C. J. wou'd procure him further Time, the same Person asking him how he wou'd spend it, He answer'd, To manifest the Truth and Reality of my Repentance, I do heartily Repent from the bottom of my Soul, and hope I am forgiven. Suppose continued that Friend of his, You shou'd be offer'd a Pardon if you wou'd renounce CHRIST, Wou'd you not accept of it? He reply'd, No, not for a Thousand Worlds, not for Ten Thousand Lives; he lov'd the LORD JESUS, and was now reconcil'd to Death. When all Thoughts of a Reprieve were given over, and the Petition that was sent to the Prosecutors to joyn with him being return'd Unsign'd, He said, I am sorry I have not employ'd my Time more, in getting Meekness and Preparedness for Heaven, and the Lord JESUS CHRIST. For I observe, all the Counsels I have taken to prolong this Wretched Life, tended only to its Destruction and Overthrow in this World.

He sent to the Minister of the Dissenting Congregation, to desire he might be Pray'd for by Name, at the Thursdays Lecture in that Town and Prayers were constantly said for him in Church. Friday in the Afternoon, He receiv'd the Holy Sacrament, his Brother, and Wells who was Executed with him, Receiving it also at the same time. When he was spoken to about making a Discovery of Mr. Sayer's Writings and Effects, he excus'd his not doing it, saying, That as he was concern'd for some Persons as their Attorney and Solicitor it was a betraying of his Trust for him to discover them. And in these Sentiments he Dy'd as to this matter.

It being put to him, whether there were any Children Living that were Born since Mrs. Sayer refus'd to Bed with her Husband, He reply'd, None since her Disposition. The Gentleman who ask'd this Question

him, did not know the Story, or he wou'd have had a more Definitive Answer. He himself order'd his Funeral, and how his Corpse shou'd be dispos'd; the Undertaker Mr. A——being, it seems, a Friend of his; he desir'd he might be Bury'd at *Kingsfon*, and not be carry'd to *London*. His way of Living after Conviction, was very moderate; he eat little, and nothing at all the Day before he dy'd. Notwithstanding the Allowance he order'd to the Five Persons who lay under Condemnation, tis said those Fellows did not think it enough, and were troublesome to him for more. His Clerk attended him in the Prison, and for some Days before he dy'd. He appear'd to be very desirous to give his Clients full Satisfaction; for which End, he intrusted all his Affairs to an Honest Attorney of the Inn, of which he was a Member. His Mind became Calm, and the Frame of his Spirit was compos'd towards the Evening, that he was to Dye on the Morning. He took his Leave of the Gentleman who had attended him so much, about Five of the Clock, and thank'd him again and again for his good Offices, finding they were as Disinterested as they were Affectionate. Two of the Divines who Subscrib'd the Paper, stay'd with him till Twelve or One a Clock, *Saturday* Morning. The Third sat up all Night, which was spent in Devotion, the Minister declaring, he had himself no disposition to Sleep; so intent were they on the Great Work they were about. The Dreadful Morning being come, which was to be the last of *Noble's* Life, about Six a Clock he sent for a Pint of Sack with a Toast, of which he eat a little, and drank a Glass of the Wine, the Ordinary bearing him Company. He desir'd his Keeper to attend him to the Place of Execution, and put the Cap over his Eyes, that the Executioner might not touch him. And to prevent his stripping him when Dead, an Agreement was made with him for One Guinea and a Half, that he shou'd not meddle with any thing; which Guinea and a Half, was paid out of the Money he receiv'd that

Morning for a Bank Bill of the same Value, 20 l. But it was not my Business to inquire what was done with the rest of it. About Noon, the Five Condemn'd Prisoners were put into a Cart, and carry'd to the Gallows. Mr. *Noble's* heavy Chains were knockt off, and the Mourning Coach coming to the Goal, he went into it with the Three Ministers who Sign'd his Paper, to which he set his Name that Morning. He was not Bound in the Coach, the Under-Sheriff, Mr. *Mason*, treating him with great Civility.

The Concourse of People that crouded from all Parts of the Country to be Witnesses of this Tragedy is incredible: Those on Horseback were computed at 4 or 5000, and those on Foot at four times as many. I observ'd his Behaviour in the Coach, and truly I think it was as well as could be expected. A Hurry of Thought is the least that must attend a Man in so terrible an Hour, and the Concern he seem'd to be in was no more than would be excusable in a Man of another Character for Courage than ever Mr *Noble* had. Before the Coach rode the Undertaker Mr *A* — and at the side of it Mr *Darby* Keeper of the *Marshalsea*; and before the Coach was got to the Place of Execution, the Croud was so very great, Mr *Noble* was forc'd to be taken out of it, and carry'd to the Cart a Horseback behind Mr *Whitworth*, one of the Sheriff's Officers:

The 3 Ministers attended him in the Cart, and were fervent in their Prayers on that dismal Occasion. The Prisoners and several of the Spectators sung the 51st Psalm, Mr *Noble* himself reading the Words, and singing so audibly, that his Voice was to be distinguished from any of the rest. He pray'd also with great Fervency, and so loud as to be heard at a distance. He was upon his Knees half an Hour while the other Prisoners were ty'd up; when he rose, he ask'd the Keeper who went with him, *When wilt thou Hangman put the Rope about my Neck*; the Keeper

reply'd

reply'd; *He will do it presently.* After 'twas done, he renew'd his Devotion, and the Ministers having had the three Papers deliver'd to them severally, and taken their leave of him, his Cap was put on by the same Keeper. He gave his Wig to Mr A — and as it is said his Watch also. He kiss'd him very Affectionately, as he did all that were by, whom he knew, and then prepar'd himself for Execution. The Hangman asking, *if the Cart should draw away,* the Under-Sheriff said, *let Mr Noble have what Time he pleas'd;* Noble answer'd, *Stay a Minute then,* then turning up his Cap once or twice after 'twas pull'd over his Eyes, looking up to Heaven, he made several Pious Ejaculations, and pulling down his Cap for the last time, he with his Fellow Prisoners was turn'd off, invoking the Infinite Mercy of God, to which we must leave him.

In the Moment the Cart drew away, two Pidgeons were let fly by one of the Spectators, suppos'd to be Carriers. The one made directly for London, the other wheel'd to the West; but 'tis said it at last follow'd the former. This Novelty occasion'd various Speculations, but all agreed they were to carry the News of his Death, tho' no body cou'd tell whether to those that wou'd be pleas'd with it, or those that wou'd be troubled. Be it one or the other, 'tis suppos'd they might by that means hear of it in a Quarter of an Hour. The flight of the Pidgeons so entertain'd the Curiosity of the Spectators, that the Fate of the Six Prisoners was no more talk'd of, neither was the driving away of the Cart attended with any Skriek as usual, and hardly was the Breath out of his Body, but People's Pity abated for him, and increased for Mr Sayer.

The Corpse was put into a Black Bays Coffin lin'd with White Sattin, and carry'd in a Hearse, which follow'd the Coach to the *Black Bull* in Kingston, where it was Shrouded and wrapt in a white Sattin Sheet. The Year of his Age Twenty Eight was on the

the Plate, and this Funeral perform'd the next Day being *Sunday* the 29th of *March*, with great Decency. His Brother did not attend him to the Place of Execution, nor his Clerk, an Office to be ill paid by Persons that had such an Affection for him. The former fell into a violent Passion of Grief as soon as he heard he was executed; and as he has the Reputation of a good Man, we cannot but Sympathize with him and his Relations, in the deplorable End of a Person that was once so dear to them.

Having received the following Letter from *Kingston* two Days after the Execution, I believe the Curious will not be displeased with it.

Sunday,

Sunday Night.

S I R,

I Have to the utmost of my Power, as well as my Illness wou'd let me, sent you a Particular Account of the Funeral Proceffion, which was as follows:

A Porter with Staff, Scarf, Favours and Gloves.

Two Ministers.

Mr. Cooke the Curate, and Mr L' Herondel with Hatbands and Gloves.

The Corpse.

The Pall supported by Six Lawyers with White Sarsnet Scarfs, Favours and White Gloves.

Mourners.

His Brother and his Wife.

Two Women not in Mourning.

Five Men in Cloaks.

Two Batchellors,

One Gentleman bringing up the Rear.

They went from the Bull along the Head of the Market Place into the Church Yard, through the South Entrance, and so round the Church into it at the West End. The Corpse was plac'd in the Middle Isle, and the Funeral Service read over it in as Decent a maner, and in as much Form as for any other Gentleman who dy'd a Natural Death. Prayers being ended, the Corpse was carry'd to the South Porch
of

of the Church, and there inter'd just in the Church
Yard with all the Funeral Service, using these Words,
The Soul of our dear Brother here departed,
we therefore commit his Body to the Ground,
&c. In a Word, there was no difference at all be-
tween his Corpse and others. I am,

Sir,

Yours, &c.

I shall conclude this Narrative with some
Remarks on Mr Noble's Paper, reserving what
may further be said of it till further Provoca-
tion.

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im,

The Paper he deliver'd to the

Three Divines that attended him at the Place of Execution, appears not to be so finish'd as his Speech at Sentence, of which he himself takes Notice. 'Twas all written at first in his own Hand, and Coppy'd by his Clerk and Mr. Lynd-- The Divines, no doubt, had read it over and over again before ; and I my self knew the Contents of most part of it, but the Form of the Delivery was defer'd to the last Moment.

I Have since my Confinement (under Sentence of Death) to this very Hour, been under the greatest Expectation of a short Reprieve ; especially for that I was Credibly assured the Lord Chief Justice Parker had promised to grant it for my Clients sake, in case they would make Affidavit before him, of their having Papers and Writings in my hands, which Condition (I'm told) was perform'd on their Part.

If such Promise was made, I heartily forgive him, in not performing it.

Mr. Noble did very well, to question whether such Promise was made, because it never was made; but he had done much better, if he had not so unjustly reflected on his Lordship by hearsay only, nor mention'd his Name with Malice, which seldom is attended with Contrition. My Lords High Character can receive no Blast from such Breath; and there are few Criminals of that kind that go out of the World in a good Humour with the Judge.

This Disappointment I assign as the true Reason of my being very brief in the Account, which otherwise might have been incumbent on, or at least have been expected from me, to have enlarged upon.

I have been often told, that it hath been reported I have acted Criminal Indecencies with Mrs. Salisbury; and Mrs. Elizabeth Nevil (the Mother and Sister of Mrs. Mary Sayer) and that both or one of them were, or was privy to, or countenancing of such unlawful Acts of mine, with the said Mrs. Sayer. I think it my Duty to declare, as I do, that such Report is false.

As to the Murdering Mr. Sayer, I do declare that Mrs. Salisbury, or Mrs. Sayer, did not draw the Sword with which I unfortunately kill'd him: Nor was either of them aiding, directing, or advising of such Murder: Nor did either of them open the Door whereat I kill'd him, tho' the contrary hath been suggested to me by one of the Sisters of the Deceased.

This refers to the Visit the Ladies of the Family made him at Kingston Goal; where he seem'd in some manner to justify what he had done

done to the Mother and Sisters of the Deceas'd, whose Blood he had spilt. I am afraid there was nothing of her Invention in that Suggestion. What the Lady said, she was told, and she did not say it as Evidence: I desire the Reader to consider, whether there is not a great deal of Spite in this Expression of his, with respect to Mr. Sayer's Sisters.

I'm told, that 'tis reported I was Married to Mrs. Sayer whilst we were in the Marshalsea, and that she hath been with me, since my Condemnation. I do declare that such Reports are false: And that I never was married to the said Mrs. Sayer.

As to what relates chiefly to my self, Time won't permit my saying so much as I intended.

I hope that my Dying Words may make a deep and sensible Impression on the Minds of such Persons as may read this Paper, that such as are going on in a Course of Sin, may be awaken'd from their Lethargy, and deterr'd from the Continuance in, or Commission of any known Sin against the Living God; but more especially those who have been Partners with me in my Sins.

I would not extenuate or palliate the Crime of Murder which I committed: Therefore must say, that though the Fact was committed under the greatest Surprise, and without any premeditated Malice or Design, by removing him out of the World, to have the freer Access to his Wife; (which gave me reasonable hopes of my escaping the Justice of Human Laws) Yet I must own, that the Judgment of God, in bringing me to this deserved and shameful Death, is very Just; and I do declare, that I never had, nor ever knew that Mrs. Salis-

bury, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Nevil, or any of them, had any Design to kill Mr. Sayer, by Poison, or otherwise.

I have secretly and wilfully committed many great, and most heinous Sins against God, besides that for which I am now to Dye. God suffered me to act those Sins for several Years, without punishing me himself, or suffering me to fall under the hand of Human Laws. I had frequent Checks of Conscience to recal and restrain me from committing further Sins; but I stifled or diverted those good Thoughts, and continued the Practice of my beloved Sins with Pleasure.

I indeed have made many Resolutions to God of Repentance and Conversion, but soon broke thro' them, which is a great Aggravation of my Offences; and those Sins and those Aggravations, undoubtedly justly provoked God to suffer me to act that horrid Crime, for which I am now to Dye.

I heartily beg Pardon of the Relations of the Deceas'd, for the Injury done them by the Murder of Mr. Sayer.

The best way of begging a Pardon had been, to have made Restitution, to have discover'd and restor'd the Writings of Mr. Sayer's Estate, and the Money and other Effects his Wife carry'd off with her. I shou'd be glad to be inform'd whether I can connive at such an Injury done to another, supposing this a Conivance only, and yet have a Contrite Heart towards God and Man. I am no Casuist, and I say it for Information.

I heartily beg Pardon of all others that I have injured by any secret or open Means.

I heartily forgive every Person that has done me any Injury; especially those who strain'd their Consciences to affect me on my Tryal. I pray God give them Grace to repent of those and all other Sins, lest by such and other Provocations against God, they destroy both their Bodies and Souls.

I have had very good Help and Instructions from some Worthy Divines, and other good Christians that have attended me since my Condemnation; who have (I believe) done my Soul much good, for which I am very thankful; and may God have the Glory by it, and they their due Reward.

I have (since my Condemnation) occasionally been under the utmost Disorder and Perplexity, for having so many and such great Sins to repent of in so short a time; but as my Endeavours for a longer time have prov'd ineffectual, so I hope, that God Almighty will accept, in his great Mercy, that small space, which he, in his wise Providence, hath thought fit to allow me.

And whereas I have been told, that I was thought to be one of the Sect of the Free-Thinkers, I do utterly deny the same, and that I never so much as read the Book Published by the Free-Thinkers.

I wish I cou'd see the Rough Draft of this Paper.

Perhaps it may be observ'd, that this my Dying-Speech, is not so patheticall as that which I spoke, when I receiv'd Sentence of Death. Then I was in hopes of preserving my Life; but now being satisfy'd to the contrary, my Thoughts are turn'd another way,

way, (to wit) to make my Peace with my Conscience and my God.

But as to the Truth of this my Dying-Speech, I call God Almighty to witness, that I know not of the least Falsity therein, as I hope for Eternal Salvation.

Richard Noble.

Tho' we have already given a very True, and no needless Account, of the Behaviour of Mr. Noble before his Execution; yet to give every one Satisfaction, we shall add this short Relation subjoyn'd to his Last Paper; there is no less than 3 Ministers Names to it: For which, I refer the Curious to the Original.

BEing under the Obligations, usual on those that receive Papers from Dying Persons to be published, and having faithfully discharg'd our Trusts therein, We have found some other Reasons to subjoin to it a further brief Relation of Mr. Noble's Behaviour and Conduct, during the last Week of his Life, wherein we all frequently visited him.

So far, as any or all of us, could possibly discern, or collect from his many Answers and Declarations, from his whole Discourse, and the Tenor of his constant Devotion, he repented from the bottom of his Heart of the manifold and heinous Sins of his Life; That Crying Sin especially for which he dy'd

He

He profess'd an unshaken Belief of the Truth and Importance of the Christian Religion, and a stedfast Faith in, and Relyance on the only atoning Merits of his Redeemer.

He was desirous, and resolute to dye in the Communion of the Church of England, and in perfect Charity with all the World; he appear'd under a calm Resignation to the Sovereign Will of God, and not without increasing Hopes of Pardon, as his Death approach'd nearer; to the very Article of which his Disposition was such as himself had often pray'd for.

I have already mention'd an Instance of his Charity to a Divine, whom he was offended with before; but he now told him, *He should be sorry not to Dye in Charity with any Man, especially with a Clergy-Man.*

We pray to God, that these last Sentiments of his (who is cut off by the just Judgment both of God and Man, in the Twenty Eighth Year of his Age) may have that happy and peculiar Effect, which (next to his own Salvation) he constantly had in View; the reclaiming those in particular, (we mean) who have at any time, or in any manner, been Partners, or Associates with him in Wickedness. We find this briefly hinted in his Paper; but we know, he thought on it frequently, and labour'd much about it. We could produce Instances and Proofs of all we say: But we hope this general Account will

will suffice to answer the Importunity of some; and perhaps to silence the importunate Clamours of others, who have added very false, as well as needless Aggravations to his Guilt.

March 30, 1713.

FINIS.

